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Application No.: 10/572,915

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) Backflow preventer (1), comprising an insert housing (2) with a housing interior (5) in which a valve member (6) is located which contacts a valve seat (7) in a closed position thereof and which can be moved against a restoring force from the closed position into an open position, wherein the housing interior (5) has, in a movement zone of the valve member (6), an interior section (A), which has a greater open cross section relative to an outer periphery of the valve member, wherein for play-free guidance of the valve member (6) there is a spring-elastic valve member guide (9) having at least two spring arms (10) formed on an inner portion of the insert housing (2) between which the valve member slides, the spring arms arranged with free spring arm ends thereof in a region of the valve seat (7), the spring arms contact at least one of the housing inner wall or the valve member (6), the spring-elastic valve member guide (9) being, which is effective between the valve member (6) and a housing inner wall surrounding the interior section (A).
2. (Previously presented) Backflow preventer according to claim 1, wherein the valve member guide (9) is effective at least in the movement zone of the valve member (6) in proximity to the valve seat.

3. – 6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently amended) Backflow preventer according to claim [[3]] 1, wherein the spring arms (10) are spaced apart from each other uniformly in a peripheral direction of the backflow preventer (1).

8. (Currently amended) Backflow preventer according to claim [[3]] 1, wherein a ring seal (11), which is effective between the valve member (6) and the valve seat (7) in the closed position, is provided on a periphery of the valve member and the spring arms (10) are arranged on a side of the ring seal (11) facing away from the valve seat (7).

9. (Previously presented) Backflow preventer according to claim 1, wherein the valve member (6) has on a side facing away from the valve seat (7) a guide rod (12), which is guided displaceably in a guide opening (13) of the insert housing (2).

10. (Previously presented) Backflow preventer according to claim 1, wherein the backflow preventer (1) comprises a sanitary backflow preventer, adapted for insertion into a water line or a sanitary water discharge armature.